29th January 1936]

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—"I have no information, Sir."

Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi:—"Will the Hon. Member call for the information, and if there is precedent, kindly extend the benefit of it to the present case?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—"Precedent alone cannot govern cases of this kind."

Control of Books and Periodicals

Alleged offending article in the 'Ananda Vikadan,' dated the 7th July 1935, wounding the religious feelings of Christians.

* 542 *Q.*—Mr. M. S. Sreshta: With reference to his replies to question No. 165 of 8th August 1935, *re* the publication of an article in *Ananda Vikadan*, will the Hon. the Home Member be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken by him?

A.—In view of the statement of the editor of the *Ananda Vikadan* that the intention of the article in the issue of 7th July 1935 was not to belittle the founder of Christianity, the Government considered that no action was necessary other than to issue an informal warning to the editor to be more careful in future and guard strictly against offending the religious feelings of any communities.

Mr. M. S. Sreshta:—"May I know how this case is different from the other case in which very strong action was taken on a Christian writer of a book which was supposed to offend the susceptibilities of another community?"

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. Pannirselvam:—"In the other case the author was dead and could not give any explanation; in this case the author of the article says that he did not mean to give any offence and the language used is not incapable of an innocent construction, though with a little straining."

Mr. M. S. Sreshta:—"Will the Hon. Member be pleased to place on the table of the House the statement of the editor and the informal warning given by the Government?"

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. Pannirselvam:—"The explanation appeared in a later issue of the same paper; the offending article was in one issue; in view of the agitation set up by Christians, three weeks later, an explanation was offered in another issue of the same paper; therefore it is open to the public as much as to the Government; as far as the warning is concerned, I can only say that we asked the Commissioner of Police to send for the editor and warn him to be more careful in future."